

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0046

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, NU

SUBJECT: CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 280682

AFTER CONSULTING WITH SENIOR STAFF, OUR MISSION WISHES TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

1. TOPIC PRIORITIES BASED ON THEIR PROBLEMATIC NATURE IN NICARAGUA, ARE: (A) HUMAN RIGHTS, (B) ARMS TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS, (C) AID, (D) TERRORISM, (E) CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, AND (F) CUBA.

2. SUGGESTIONS AGENDA TOPICS:

(A) UNDER MANAGEMENT/RESOURCES PERSONNEL RUBRIC: DISCUSSION SO AS TO BETTER CLARIFY AMBASSADOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO VARIOUS AGENCY PERSONNEL AT POST, ESPECIALLY SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT BY CHIEFS OF MISSION OVERSEAS; CAREFUL DEFINITION OF "REPRESENTATIONAL" AND OTHER ROLES ANCILLARY TO THE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING OF THESE PROGRAMS. THE ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL, U.S. AID - WASHINGTON, SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, AND SOUTHERN COMMAND, AS THEY RELATE TO EMBASSIES, DESERVE CAREFUL ELABORATION.

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(B) UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS RUBRIC: THE EXTENT OF THE POLICY. SHOULD IT INCLUDE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, I.E., WHAT SHOULD BE THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD MILITARY REGIMES AND OTHER FORMS OF DICTATORSHIP IN THE AREA; HOW FAR SHOULD THE U.S. GO IN PROMOTING, SHORT OF OVERT OR COVERT PHYSICAL INTERVENTION; DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES?; PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTING A "CARROT AND STICK" HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY;

PROBLEMS OF AD HOC DECISION-MAKING IN IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE POLICIES TIED TO HUMAN RIGHTS; PROBLEMS OF CO-ORDINATING THESE POLICIES WITH CONGRESS.

(E) UNDER THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND INVESTMENT, AND ENERGY RUBRICS USG AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT CORRUPT PRACTICES AMONG IFI'S OPERATING IN HEMISPHERE; EXIMBANK POLICIES AS THEY AFFECT THE ABILITY OF U.S. FIRMS TO COMPETE IN LATIN AMERICAN MARKETS; ENERGY: USG INVOLVEMENT IN PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS ENERGY SOURCES IN LATIN AMERICA (E.G. GEOTHERMAL. NOTE: ALTHOUGH THESE FORMS OF ENERGY PER SE CANNOT BE EXPORTED TO THE U.S. AS OIL CAN, THEIR DEVELOPMENT WILL PERMIT CERTAIN ENERGY-INTENSIVE PROCESSING (SUCH AS BAUXITE) TO BE DONE RELATIVELY CHEAPLY ABROAD, WITH A RESULTANT REDUCTION OF ENERGY WITHIN THE U.S.

(D) CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS COULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE CENTRAL AMERICA OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION COULD BE A SEPARATE TOPIC. CENTRAL AMERICA AS A WHOLE IS THE FOURTH MOST IMPORTANT MARKET FOR THE U.S. IN ALL OF LATIN AMERICA.

(E) UNDER AMRS TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS, THE GENERAL QUESTION OF MILITARY INTERRELATIONSHIPS IN THE HEMISPHERE; WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE TO U.S. INTERESTS IF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO NON-U.S. SUPPLIERS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND NON-U.S. SOURCES OF TRAINING?

(F) WE PROPOSE THAT THE "DEPENDENCY SYNDROME"-- THE LATIN AMERICAN
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TENDENCY TO INVOLVE U.S. ACTORS IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BEING THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE COIN OF U.S. INTERVENTION -- BE EXPLICITLY DISCUSSED. NICARAGUA IS AN EXCELLENT CASE.
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